

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An IC card receiving a power from an external terminal and performing a process, the IC card comprising:

- 5 a storage which stores first identification information uniquely assigned to the IC card;
- an acquisition unit configured to acquire second identification information from the external terminal;
- a first timer including a first change unit whose
10 state changes with lapse of time without the power, the state of the first change unit changing from a first initial state to a final state via an intermediate state, the first timer outputting a first signal
15 indicative of a changed state of the first change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power;
- a comparison unit configured to compare the second identification information with the first
20 identification information, determine whether or not the second identification information and the first identification information are identical to each other, and provide a first initializing signal according to at least one of determined results; and
- a controller which initializes the first change
25 unit to the first initial state when receiving the first initializing signal from the comparison unit, the controller further controlling the IC card to make it

inhibit the process until the state of the first change unit changes to the intermediate state.

2. The IC card according to claim 1, the comparison unit including a count unit configured to count times of the determined results until the number of times at least reaches a preset upper limit, the comparison unit providing the first initializing signal if the number of times reaches the preset upper limit.

3. The IC card according to claim 2, further comprising

a second timer including a second change unit whose state changes with lapse of time starting from a second initial state without the power, at a rate different from a change rate of the first change unit, the second timer outputting a second signal indicative of a changed state of the second change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power,

the comparison unit further configured to provide a second initializing signal each time the comparison unit determines that the second identification information fails to identify with the first identification information, and

the controller initializing the second change unit to the second initial state when receiving the second initializing signal from the comparison unit.

4. The IC card according to claim 3, wherein if

the first timer fails to measure a time, if the second timer measures a time, and if the comparison unit determines that the second identification information is identical to the first identification information, the controller regards that the second timer fails to measure a time.

5 5. The IC card according to claim 2, further comprising

10 a second timer including a second change unit whose state changes with lapse of time starting from a second initial state without the power, at a rate different from a change rate of the first change unit, the second timer outputting a second signal indicative of a changed state of the second change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power,

15 the controller regarding that the second timer fails to measure a time each time the comparison unit determines that the second identification information identifies with the first identification information.

20 6. The IC card according to claim 5, wherein the controller instructs the count unit to reset the number of counted times if the controller regards that the second timer fails to measure a time.

25 7. The IC card according to claim 2, further comprising

 a second timer including a second change unit

whose state changes with lapse of time starting from a second initial state without the power, at a rate different from a change rate of the first change unit, the second timer outputting a second signal indicative of a changed state of the second change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power, the second timer starting from the second initial state at which the count unit starts counting, and ending after a preset period.

8. The IC card according to claim 7, wherein if the first timer fails to measure a time, if the second timer measures a time, and if the comparison unit determines that the second identification information is identical to the first identification information, the controller regards that the second timer fails to measure a time.

9. A method of preventing illegal use of an IC card, the IC card receiving a power from an external terminal and performing a process, the method comprising:

preparing an IC card including a storage which stores first identification information uniquely assigned to the IC card, an acquisition unit configured to acquire second identification information from the external terminal, a first timer including a first change unit whose state changes with lapse of time without the power, the state of the first change unit

changing from a first initial state to a final state
via an intermediate state, the first timer outputting a
first signal indicative of a changed state of the first
change unit in response to an instruction issued when
5 the IC card receives the power;

comparing the second identification information
with the first identification information, determining
whether or not the second identification information
and the first identification information are identical
10 to each other, and providing a first initializing
signal according to at least one of determined results;
and

initializing the first change unit to the first
initial state when the first initializing signal is
15 received, and inhibiting the process until the state of
the first change unit changes to the intermediate
state.

10. The method according to claim 9, comparing the
second identification information including:

20 counting times of the determined results; and
providing the first initializing signal if the
number of times reaches a preset value.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the
IC card further includes a second timer including a
25 second change unit whose state changes with lapse of
time starting from a second initial state without the
power, at a rate different from a change rate of the

first change unit, the second timer outputting a second signal indicative of a changed state of the second change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power,

5 the method further comprising providing a second initializing signal each time it is determined that the second identification information fails to identify with the first identification information, and

 initializing the second change unit to the second
10 initial state when the second initializing signal is received.

 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein if the first timer fails to measure a time, if the second timer measures a time, and if it is determined that the
15 second identification information is identical to the first identification information, it is regarded that the second timer fails to measure a time.

 13. The method according to claim 10, wherein the IC card further includes a second timer including a
20 second change unit whose state changes with lapse of time starting from a second initial state without the power, at a rate different from a change rate of the first change unit, the second timer outputting a second
25 signal indicative of a changed state of the second change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power,

 the method further comprising regarding that the

second timer fails to measure a time each time it is determined that the second identification information identifies with the first identification information.

14. The method according to claim 13, further
5 comprising resetting the number of counted times if it is regarded that the second timer fails to measure a time.

15. The method according to claim 10, wherein the IC card further includes a second timer including a
10 second change unit whose state changes with lapse of time starting from a second initial state without the power, at a rate different from a change rate of the first change unit, the second timer outputting a second signal indicative of a changed state of the second
15 change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power,

the method further comprising instructing the second timer starting from the second initial state at which counting is started, and ending after a preset
20 period.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein if the first timer fails to measure a time, if the second timer measures time, and if it is determined that the second identification information is identical to the
25 first identification information, it is regarded that the second timer fails to measure a time.

17. A program stored in a storage medium and

executed by a processor included in an IC card, the program comprising:

means for instructing a processor to compare second identification information with first
5 identification information, determine whether or not the second identification information and the first identification information are identical to each other, and providing a first initializing signal according to at least one of determined results the IC card
10 receiving a power from an external terminal and performing a process using the program, the IC card including: a storage which stores the first identification information uniquely assigned to the IC card; an acquisition unit configured to acquire the
15 second identification information from the external terminal; and a first timer including a first change unit whose state changes with lapse of time without the power, the state of the first change unit changing from a first initial state to a final state via an
20 intermediate state, the first timer outputting a first signal indicative of a changed state of the first change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power; and

means for instructing the processor to initialize
25 the first change unit to the first initial state when the first initializing signal is received, and instructing the processor to inhibit the process until

the state of the first change unit changes to the intermediate state.

18. The program according to claim 17, means for instructing a processor to compare second
5 identification information including means for instructing the processor to count times of the determined results, and

means for instructing the processor to provide the first initializing signal if the number of times
10 reaches a preset value.

19. The program according to claim 18, wherein the IC card further includes a second timer including a second change unit whose state changes with lapse of time starting from a second initial state without the
15 power, at a rate different from a change rate of the first change unit, the second timer outputting a second signal indicative of a changed state of the second change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power, and

20 the program includes means for instructing the processor to provide a second initializing signal each time it is determined that the second identification information fails to identify with the first, and

means for instructing the processor to initialize
25 the second change unit to the second initial state when the second initializing signal is received.

20. The program according to claim 19, wherein if

the first timer fails to measure a time, if the second timer measures a time, and if it is determined that the second identification information is identical to the first identification information, it is regarded that
5 the second timer fails to measure a time.

21. The program according to claim 18, wherein the IC card further includes a second timer including a second change unit whose state changes with lapse of time starting from a second initial state without the
10 power, at a rate different from a change rate of the first change unit, the second timer outputting a second signal indicative of a changed state of the second change unit in response to an instruction issued when the IC card receives the power, and

15 the program includes means for instructing the processor to regard that the second timer fails to measure a time each time it is determined determines that the second identification information identifies with the first identification information.

20 22. The program according to claim 21, further comprising means for instructing the processor to reset the number of counted times if it is regarded that the second timer fails to measure a time.

23. The program according to claim 18, wherein the
25 IC card further includes a second timer including a second change unit whose state changes with lapse of time starting from a second initial state without the

power, at a rate different from a change rate of the
first change unit, the second timer outputting a second
signal indicative of a changed state of the second
change unit in response to an instruction issued when
5 the IC card receives the power, the second timer
starting from a second initial state at which counting
is started, and ending after a preset period.

24. The program according to claim 23, wherein if
the first timer fails to measure a time, if the second
10 timer measures a time, and if it is determined that the
second identification information is identical to the
first identification information, it is regarded that
the second timer fails to measure a time.